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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :

Plamen A. DEMIREV

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Serial No.: 09/856,044 *nm*

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: May 17, 2001

For: METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING AND CLASSIFYING ORGANISMS BY MASS  
SPECTROMETRY AND DATABASE SEARCHING

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

*AC*  
**1. (Amended)** A method of identifying one or more unknown microorganisms in a sample comprising:

searching a sequence database for a plurality of intact, undigested proteins that are predicted to have the molecular weights of proteins in a mass spectrum of a sample, whereby said one or more unknown microorganisms are identified,

wherein said sample comprises a plurality of proteins from one or more unknown microorganisms, and said database is searched for more than one different protein.

**Cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.**